TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 20, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 15 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 1.9 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 50 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 887.6 billion ton-miles, 10.5 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 15 totaled 387,282, up 0.5 percent from last year, and 2.1 percent over the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 6.4 percent in the South and 1.0 percent in the West, but down 5.3 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 14 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings were up by 4,521 cars (4.2 percent) and loadings of motor vehicles and equipment showed a gain of 2,094 cars (9.7 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 8 totaled 56,446 cars, up 11.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 91,695 trailers and/or containers, 1.9 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 2,541,496 cars, 14.6 percent higher than last year, and 4,327,472 trailers and/or containers, up 12.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/15/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Dec. 15, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,741	D	1,849	6.2	D	1,120	4.0
Other farm products	4,677	I	473	11.3	D	106	2.3
Metallic ores	11,805	D	2,052	14.8	D	956	8.1
Coal	113,436	I	4,521	4.2	I	6,856	6.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,527	I	1,399	15.3	I	239	2.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,156	D	994	8.9	D	276	2.7
Grain mill products	10,633	D	244	2.2	D	268	2.5
Food and kindred products	11,025	D	491	4.3	D	352	3.2
Primary forest products	14,089	D	425	2.9	I	1,530	10.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,806	D	192	2.7	D	168	2.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,851	D	293	1.9	D	47	0.3
Chemicals and allied products	23,673	I	149	0.6	I	279	1.2
Petroleum products	4,957	I	167	3.5	I	79	1.6
Stone, clay and glass products	9,700	D	61	0.6	D	335	3.5
Coke	4,579	D	668	12.7	I	487	10.6
Metals and products	7,533	D	1,031	12.0	I	51	0.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,702	I	2,094	9.7	I	858	3.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,898	D	291	3.2	I	608	6.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,495	D	1,357	15.3	I	37	0.5
All other carloads	60,818	I	3,131	5.4	I	638	1.0
LCL traffic	181	D	57	23.9	I	8	4.4
Total Cars Loaded	387,282	I	1,929	0.5	I	8,042	2.1
Corresponding week of 1983	385,353						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	19,636,907	18,261,030	I 7.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
49 weeks ended December 8	870.2	786.3	I 10.7
Week ended December 15	17.4	17.1	I 1.9
50 weeks cumulative	887.6	803.4	I 10.5

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